

VZCZCXYZ0000
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHINA #2543 2091121
ZNY CCCCC ZZH ZUI RUEWCSE4178 2091118
O 281121Z JUL 06
FM AIT TAIPEI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC0000
INFO CHINA POSTS COLLECTIVE
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL
RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC
RHHJJAA/JICPAC HONOLULU HI
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
RHHMUNA/USPACOM HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L AIT TAIPEI 002543

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/27/2031

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [TW](#)

SUBJECT: FORMER DPP CHAIRMAN LIN I-HSIUNG ON THE DPP AND
TAIWAN LEADERS, PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

CLASSIFIED BY: AIT DIRECTOR STEPHEN M. YOUNG, REASONS: 1.4 (B/D)

¶1. (C) SUMMARY: FORMER DPP CHAIRMAN LIN I-HSIUNG TOLD THE DIRECTOR ON JULY 26 THAT PRESIDENT CHEN AND THE DPP HAD SQUANDERED THEIR OPPORTUNITY AND DISAPPOINTED THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN BY NOT CARRYING THROUGH ON THEIR PROGRAM OF DEMOCRATIZATION AND LOCALIZATION. CHEN IS ISOLATED AND WILL BE UNABLE TO MAKE MAJOR MOVES IN THE REMAINING TWO YEARS OF HIS TERM, LIN PREDICTED. THE FORMER DPP CHAIRMAN EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT IF THE KMT COMES BACK INTO POWER IN 2008, A STRONG UNIFICATIONIST LEADER, PRESUMABLY A REFERENCE TO KMT CHAIRMAN MA YING-JEOU, MIGHT SEEK UNIFICATION TO BECOME A "GREAT HERO" IN CHINESE HISTORY. END SUMMARY.

¶2. (C) FORMER DEMOCRATIC PROGRESSIVE PARTY (DPP) CHAIRMAN LIN I-HSIUNG, WHO LEFT THE PARTY LAST JANUARY, TOLD THE DIRECTOR ON JULY 26 THAT THE DPP'S PROBLEM IS THAT IT HAS GRADUALLY LOST ITS CHARACTER AS THE "LOCALIZATION (BENTU)" PARTY. WHILE THE DPP ORIGINALLY REPRESENTED BOTH DEMOCRATIZATION AND LOCALIZATION, RECENTLY IT HAS NOT FOCUSED ON THESE ISSUES. DPP LEADERS DO NOT SEEM TO CARE ABOUT BASIC PRINCIPLES AND HAVE DONE LITTLE, FOR EXAMPLE, TO PROMOTE DEMOCRATIC EDUCATION.

¶3. (C) THE DPP HAS NOT MADE GOOD USE OF ITS OPPORTUNITY SINCE COMING TO POWER SIX YEARS AGO, LIN CONTINUED. THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THEY ARE DPP OR KUOMINTANG (KMT) SUPPORTERS, ARE DISAPPOINTED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THE DPP. ASKED ABOUT THE RECENT NATIONAL PARTY CONGRESS, LIN SAID HE HOPED THE DPP WOULD BE ABLE TO REFORM. HOWEVER, HE NOTED, THE ABOLITION OF PARTY FACTIONS BY THE PARTY CONGRESS WAS ESSENTIALLY A NEGATIVE MOVE. IN ORDER TO INCREASE UNITY, THE PARTY NEEDS TO TAKE CONCRETE POSITIVE AND NOT JUST NEGATIVE ACTIONS.

CHEN A TALKER, NOT A DOER

¶4. (C) PRESIDENT CHEN SHUI-BIAN IS VERY SMART, LIN ACKNOWLEDGED. HOWEVER, CHEN HAS USED HIS CALLS FOR INDEPENDENCE OR LOCALIZATION AS POLITICAL CAMPAIGN PLOYS BUT HE HAS NOT REALLY PURSUED SUCH GOALS. IN ADDITION, LIN SAID, CHEN IS NOT RESOLUTE AND DOES NOT HAVE A HIGH THRESHOLD FOR PRESSURE. THEREFORE HE MAKES DECISIONS ON THE BASIS OF

WHATEVER PRESSURE HE IS UNDER AT THE TIME. LIN DISAGREED WITH THE NOTION THAT CORRUPTION ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THOSE CLOSE TO CHEN WERE THE PRESIDENTS MAJOR PROBLEM. IF CHEN HAD DONE ENOUGH ON DEMOCRACY AND LOCALIZATION, LIN ARGUED, THE PEOPLE WOULD HAVE FORGIVEN HIM FOR THE CORRUPTION ISSUE.

15. (C) CHEN IS ISOLATED NOW AND OTHERS DO NOT WANT TO BE IDENTIFIED WITH HIM, LIN NOTED. THEREFORE, HE SUGGESTED, CHEN IS UNLIKELY TO TRY TO MAKE ANY MAJOR MOVES OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS. CHEN IS JUST TALKING ABOUT THE CONSTITUTION BUT CANNOT REALLY DO ANYTHING. SOME PEOPLE, SUCH AS CHEN, CALL FOR CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES AND TO PLEASE THEIR SUPPORTERS, BUT THEY DO NOT ACTUALLY WANT CHANGES. LIN ADDED THAT IN FACT THE CURRENT CONSTITUTION DOES NEED SOME CHANGES, SUCH AS CLEARLY ESTABLISHING EITHER A CABINET OR A PRESIDENTIAL SYSTEM, AND SUCH CHANGES CAN BE DISCUSSED WITH THE KMT IN A NON-CONFRONTATIONAL WAY.

CONCERN ABOUT MA YING-JEOU'S UNIFICATION PROCLIVITIES

16. (C) LIN EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT IF THE KMT RETURNS TO POWER IN 2008, ITS POLICY TOWARD CHINA WILL BE VERY DIFFERENT THAN THAT OF THE DPP. WHILE MOST MAINLANDERS BELIEVE TAIWAN IS PART OF CHINA, THEY DO NOT FAVOR UNIFICATION NOW. THE SUPPORTERS OF LOCALIZATION CAN WORK WITH THIS GROUP, WHO UNDERSTAND THE NEED TO PROTECT TAIWAN'S INTERESTS AND DEMOCRACY. HOWEVER, AMONG THE MAINLANDERS THERE IS A MUCH SMALLER GROUP, PERHAPS ONE TO TWO PERCENT OF TAIWAN'S TOTAL POPULATION, WHO ARE EXTREME UNIFICATIONISTS. LIN SAID HE FEARED THAT A LEADER WITH STRONG UNIFICATIONIST VIEWS MIGHT SELL OUT THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN, SEEKING TO BECOME A GREAT HERO IN CHINESE HISTORY BY ACHIEVING UNIFICATION. KMT CHAIRMAN MA YING-JEOU'S FATHER WAS A STRONG PROPONENT OF UNIFICATION, AND UNIFICATION IS "IN MA'S BONES." ALTHOUGH MA STUDIED IN THE U.S., HE HAD NO IDEA OF HUMAN RIGHTS OR DEMOCRACY IN TAIWAN, AND REGULARLY OPPOSED DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENTS IN TAIWAN, ACCORDING TO LIN.

LEE TENG-HUI A BORN POLITICIAN TRYING TO MAINTAIN INFLUENCE

17. (C) LIN SAID FORMER PRESIDENT LEE TENG-HUI WAS A SUCCESSFUL, TRADITIONAL TAIWANESE INTELLECTUAL, WHO HAD ENJOYED A SMOOTH RISE THROUGH ACADEMIA, THE BUREAUCRACY, AND OFFICIALDOM. HE WAS A SMART AUTHORITARIAN LEADER, WHO DID NOT BLOCK THE DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRACY. THE TAIWAN SOLIDARITY UNION (TSU) IS A VERY SMALL PARTY OF EXTREME LOCALIZATION POLITICIANS, WHOM NEITHER THE KMT NOR DPP WANTED. AFTER STEPPING DOWN AS PRESIDENT, LEE ASSUMED LEADERSHIP OF THE EXTREME LOCALIZATION SUPPORTERS WHO FAVOR TAIWAN INDEPENDENCE AND A NEW CONSTITUTION, AND HE GATHERED THEM TOGETHER IN THE TSU TO MAINTAIN HIS INFLUENCE SO THAT HE COULD "BARGAIN" WITH CHEN SHUI-BIAN.

COMMENT

18. (C) LIN I-HSIUNG IS WIDELY RESPECTED FOR HIS INTEGRITY AND IDEALISM, AND FOR HIS SERENITY IN THE FACE OF PERSONAL TRAGEDY. WHILE JAILED FOR POLITICAL REASONS IN 1980, LIN'S MOTHER AND TWO OF HIS YOUNG DAUGHTERS WERE MURDERED IN WHAT IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN A POLITICAL KILLING THAT HAS NEVER BEEN SOLVED. THOUGH PLAYING A KEY ROLE IN A NUMBER OF GREEN CAUSES OVER THE YEARS, INCLUDING CAMPAIGNS AGAINST NUCLEAR POWER AND TO REDUCE THE SIZE OF THE LEGISLATURE, HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN SOMEWHAT OF A LONER. HIS DEPARTURE FROM THE DPP LAST JANUARY REFLECTED HIS FRUSTRATION AND DISAPPOINTMENT WITH PARTY LEADERS. LIN CLEARLY HAS HIS OPINIONS BUT HE HAS STAYED OUT OF THE FRAY AND NOT ALLOWED HIMSELF TO BE MANIPULATED, FOR EXAMPLE, BY THOSE CALLING FOR PRESIDENT CHEN TO STEP DOWN.

YOUNG